

1970 as scrap for a mere \$100,000. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident.

After 34 years, the voices of *Liberty's* dead and wounded seamen must finally be heard. Despite the continuing efforts to uncover the real truths about the attack, Martin Luther King Jr., said it best—"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Although no amount of time can ever erase the memories of that tragic event or bring back those who perished, it is my hope that the wounds of their loved ones have begun to heal.

#### AAPI HOSTS SUCCESSFUL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

#### HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin recently hosted a legislative conference on Capitol Hill, and I was honored to speak to this organization, consisting of proud American doctors who trace their heritage to India. AAPI's members play a critical role in delivering quality health care throughout the U.S. across a broad range of medical specialties.

I heard from AAPI members who discussed the need for health care reform but also shared their concerns about a single-payer system. These physicians told me that while we need reforms, we should never forget that we have the greatest health care system in the world. I agree. We need to find ways to reform health care delivery by cutting costs without compromising the quality of care provided to patients. A system that rations testing, cannot provide the latest pharmaceuticals to patients, and prevents patients from making decisions about their own health care, is a system that moves the power of healthcare from the hands of patients into the hands of government.

That's not what we need in America. I appreciate the advocacy of AAPI on this issue and the difference Indian American doctors make in providing the best health care to their patients every day in our great nation.

#### CONGRATULATING DARREL JACOBS ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE 2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY THE PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

#### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Vietnam veteran's service to his fellow veterans while battling his own chronic illness. This year, the Phoenix VA Health Care Systems awarded Darrel Jacobs the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. This honor recognizes the remarkable way in which Darrel has given back to the same hospital

that has provided him with excellent care since 1972.

Darrell, a former postal clerk for the U.S. Army from 1967–1971, spends 24 hours a week volunteering at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Since he has had diabetes for 37 years and even underwent open-heart surgery at the Phoenix VA Medical Center about seven years ago, Jacobs is able to provide encouragement and assistance to his patients on a personal level.

Darrell provides support for patients in a multitude of ways, specializing in care for veterans with diabetes and heart disease. On days when the diabetes education class is held at the hospital, Darrell arrives at 6:30 a.m. to set everything up, assists veterans with their glucose tests, and is always the last one to leave once the class is over. He also coordinates lunches on the dietary department, works in the cardiology department, and even trains other volunteers.

I commend him for his energetic efforts in giving selflessly to other vets combating disease. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Darrel Jacobs for his service to our country and his continued dedication to America's veterans.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Birchwood School of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. The school was founded in 1984 by a small group of dedicated parents who wanted to create a haven for learning, quality instruction and character development for their children.

The Birchwood School was first housed in rented space in a church building on Warren Road, beginning with twenty students and three teachers, grades one through eight. The name "Birchwood" was used because of the side street upon which it was located. The name soon took on deeper significance as it was discovered that the Chinese character for the birch tree meant blossoming and soaring upwards.

The school's first principal, Mr. Debelak, consulted with some of the most noteworthy experts in the educational field in his creation of a curriculum that would challenge, instruct and shape the character and intellect of every student. The educational mission and goals of Birchwood School have not wavered throughout the growth of the school: inspire children to set high goals in every endeavor; develop the character of each child to instill a sense of caring, compassion and community; and equip each child with a strong foundation of knowledge and the tools to think critically and creatively. Since 1984, the school has grown to nearly 20 staff members and 117 students, as diverse in background and culture as the City of Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the founding members, dedicated staff and parent volunteers of the Birch-

wood School of Cleveland as they celebrate twenty-five years of fostering, enriching and uplifting the minds and hearts of every child who has walked through its doors. Since 1984, 175 students have graduated from Birchwood School, and 323 students have been a part of Birchwood for all or part of their elementary and middle school years. The vision of Birchwood School—providing each child with a quality education and character enrichment, continues to provide significant opportunity and a solid foundation for the future of every student.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTY DAVIS

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marty Davis of Taylorville, Illinois who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's family.

Marty Davis began his career in 1959 at age sixteen in one of the first McDonald's in the nation located in Des Moines, Iowa. Marty worked as a crew member making hamburgers and French fries just like any other teenager, but Marty continued his career in McDonald's. He worked as a manager in a local store and was eventually promoted to an area supervisor for the local operator in Des Moines. In 1977, Marty was offered the chance to own his own McDonald's franchise and moved to Taylorville. Marty has never looked back and now owns and operates McDonald's franchises in Pana, Vandalia, Shelbyville, and Taylorville, Illinois.

As a small business owner in my congressional district, Marty has not forgotten his community. His local stores are active in many local charitable organizations. His stores traditionally place at the top in the Nation during the local annual Ronald McDonald House Charities "Give a Little Love" heart campaign. This placement is a testament to Marty's willingness to put money back into our communities to help those most in need.

Marty was recently honored by McDonald's when he was able to throw out the first pitch during a game between my beloved St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds on Monday, June 1, 2009. As an avid Cardinal fan like me, this opportunity in honor of his 50 years in the McDonald's family was a wonderful surprise to Marty. While I do not blame him for the Cardinals loss that evening, I sure hope that in a few weeks, I throw much better pitches to the Democrats than Marty delivered that night!

Marty Davis has served Central Illinois as a small businessman, community leader, and my friend, and I wish him a very happy 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's Family.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CATHERINE SUTTON-DAWSON

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay